

Developmental Disabilities Council Minutes
Red Lion Hotel at the Park
September 17, 2004

Present

George Walker (Chair), Bill Anderson, Kim Blume, BJ Flaherty, Lori Flood, Vickie Foster, Larry Garman, Suzanne Gries, Mike Hatch, Sherri Huwe, Alphonso Lee, Clara Link, Sara McQueed, Erin Platts, Michael Raymond, Carol Shaw, Rita Wang, Julie Williamson-Purdy, Diana Zottman, Janet Adams (DDD), Sherrie Brown (UAP), Phil Jordan (P&A), David Kludt (MHD), Diana McMaster (MAA), Connee Bush (DVR)

Absent

Tracie Day, MJ Sizemore, Laethan Wene, Marijo Olson (CTED), Lou Colwell (OSPI), Angie Brothers (DOH), Patty McDonald (ADSA)

Staff

Ed Holen, Clare Billings, Donna Patrick, Linda Walling, Eva Rooks, Stephanie Benfield, Cathy Townley

Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

Minutes

Motion: Council accepts the July 2004 minutes as written. Moved by Mike R. and seconded by Mike H. The motion carried.

Chair's Remarks

George reminded the Council to fill out their pink sheets for the November meeting and return to Linda.

He announced that the Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund (DDETF) will have the first annual DDETF trustholders meeting on September 23rd at the La Quinta Inn and Suites in Federal Way. All trustholders and Council members were invited to attend.

George shared an article in the New York Times that was devoted to developmental disabilities. He stated that if anyone would like a copy, they should write their name on the accompanying sheet.

George shared that we are entering a crucial time for people with developmental disabilities.

The last budget cycle maintained the current level of funding for developmental disabilities, but there are new challenges in the legislature. For the first time the DD budget request from DSHS includes reasonable new dollars for developmental disabilities; however, there will be a new Governor and several new legislators.

Executive Director Report

Ed reported that the Governor has requested state agencies to help make voter registration more available to people. There is a link from the Council's website to the voter registration site.

He shared that advocates have distributed a candidate questionnaire to legislative and gubernatorial candidates regarding developmental disabilities. Questionnaire results will be on the state Arc's website. Ed will email everyone the website address.

Ed handed out the Council 2005 meeting dates. Hotels that meet the Council's needs are becoming harder and harder to find. The legislative reception will still be held in Olympia, but the Council meeting itself will be held at the Courtyard Marriott in Federal Way. The Capitol Building (where the 2005 legislative reception will be held) will have security measures in place.

Ed distributed the staff activities report.

Ed stated that it is time to pay annual dues to the Council's federal administrative agency. The amount is \$8,800.68. The amount is pro-rated by the award the Council is given each year to conduct its business. The Council gave Ed permission to go ahead and pay the dues.

Ed explained the new Community Services Initiative. It portrays a positive message of services for people with developmental disabilities. It is a tax-exempt 501-C3, which is member driven and all the proceeds go to media and other ways of getting our community message to the legislature. The Initiative is responsible for the candidate and is sponsoring a training on the DD waivers.

Ed shared that Brian Dahl is now in a half-time position with the Council staff. Hopefully, that position will work into full time. Brian will be working with the Quality Assurance managers to evaluate services under the new waivers.

Ed also stated that the paperwork is in process for Mike Rogers to work on the Self-Advocates as Mentors Project for the Council and leadership activities for the Council. DSHS will continue to pay Mike's salary and let him work out of their office.

The Council discussed the process of how chairs are chosen for workgroups and committees. Diana M. shared that the Membership Committee keeps track of the different Workgroup and Committees that Council members are on. It has been the practice that when someone is in their last year of Council membership, they do not serve as chair of a committee or workgroup. There are five current Council members who are in their final year on the Council.

The Governance Committee has put together a new member handbook that will hopefully answer questions that people have. The handbook will be available on the Council's website.

Agency Reports

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

Janet presented information on the budget that DDD has proposed to the Governor. She handed out information on the budget proposal and highlighted those requests that would be of particular interest to Council members. She reminded members that this is just the first step in the development of the 2005-2007 biennial budget and that the next step is for Governor Locke to unveil his budget proposal by Dec. 20th.

Janet also presented information on activities involving the Real Choices I and II grants under the federal new freedom initiative. She asked Council members to give feedback to the division if they have suggestions on the mini-assessment that DDD is developing. She provided packets of information about the new eligibility determination WAC that DDD has written and reminded people that they needed to get comments in by the 20th in order to have them considered.

Janet explained various decision package items in DDD's budget proposal.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Connee reported that the DVR is requesting General Fund State dollars to address three significant issues that have resulted from being in an Order of Selection and operating under federally-defined waiting lists: those with less severe disabilities; high school transition youth and individuals with mental illness. With state only dollars, DVR can provide services to these individuals outside of the federal requirements. Without an increase in funding, it is projected that the waiting lists could grow to over 16,000 individuals in the upcoming biennium.

Medical Assistance Administration (MAA)

Diana M. reported on the decision packages for MAA. The complete package can be found on either the Office of Financial Management (OFM) website or MAA's website. A few items included are: re-establishing continuous eligibility for children (six months back to twelve months) and extending Medicaid medical coverage for foster kids to the age of 21.

MAA continues to work toward implementation of Medicaid Integration in Snohomish County. An updated memo is being developed.

Mental Health Division (MHD)

David reported that the MHD continues on a number of different fronts to plan for the changes coming via Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Mental Health Task Force continues to study the impact of CMS changes. He is leading a work group studying the potential impact of Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) regulations. This is a federal regulation having to do with institutions that are over 16 beds, whose purpose is for the treatment and/or care of mental illness. Institutions/facilities that are determined to be IMD's are not eligible for FFP (federal dollars).

Throughout the state, the mental health system has approximately 2,200 in Boarding Home licensed facilities, and in ARRC (Adult Residential Rehabilitation Center) licensed programs. These programs are a major concern. Top considerations in working with stakeholders and consultants are assuring federal compliance and limiting disruption to consumers. The potential impact would be that there are fewer residential options for consumers, which includes those who are dually diagnosed (MH/DD) living in a Mental Health funded program.

University Center (UC)

Sherrie reported that the University of Washington has developed a Disability Studies Minor undergraduate program. There is also a survey for self-advocates, job coaches and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities on the goals they have for greater independence for the Assistive Technology and Cognition grant.

The Health Care Training Project is surveying individuals, families and providers about training. There will be an oral/photo history presentation on special ed and community at the November Council meeting.

Protection and & Advocacy System (P&A)

Phil reported that WPAS was concerned that the governor failed to re-appoint Joelle Brouner to a second term on the Council. WPAS tried to find out why the Governor made this decision, but were unable to learn his reasoning. WPAS decided that the experience and passion of Joelle should not be lost to the Council, and therefore decided that she will be the WPAS designee to the Council beginning in November 2004.

State Planning Process

Ed presented the planning process and timeline for the next state plan. He stated that the Community Supports and Housing Workgroup suggested the following changes: they would like to add “to identify service gaps” to the end of activity number six; move activity number six so that it would occur before activity number four; and add an activity number thirteen that states the final step would be to submit the plans to the federal administering agency. The Council agreed to go ahead with the planning process with the suggested changes.

2005 Legislative Agenda

Motion: The Public Policy Committee moved that the Council approve the legislative issues per reading 04-12. Michael R. seconded.

Discussion followed.

Motion: To amend the legislative issues motion to discuss and vote separately on the RHC consolidation issue. Bill moved and Sara seconded.

Discussion followed. Bill distributed handouts on Fircrest and institution versus community costs.

Vote on amendment to separate issues: motion failed with four yes, twelve no, one abstention, and four recusals.

Further discussion followed.

Vote on original motion to approve the legislative issues list: motion carried with fourteen yes, five no, and four recusals.

Workgroups and Committees

Community Supports and Housing Workgroup

Bill stated that the Workgroup had no report.

Health and Education Workgroup

Julie shared that the Workgroup had no report. Lori shared a portfolio that the Snohomish County Parent Coalition put together. The portfolio is a way for parents to gather information about their child at all ages and stages.

Self-Determination Workgroup

Diana M. reported that the Workgroup was not bringing anything forward for a vote. The Workgroup discussed:

- Project updates

They also watched the video “Partners for Work”, part of the Auburn Rotary Club Project on people working in the community.

Governance Committee

Sherrie B. reported that the Committee discussed:

- Reasonable Accommodation Policy
- Support Person’s Code of Conduct
- Policy No. 406 Council Member Attendance

Public Policy Committee

BJ reported that the Committee discussed:

- RHC Policy
- Choice concept discussion
- Family Support proposal
- New legislative issues

Membership Committee

Vickie reported that the Committee discussed:

- Development Day (providing a profile to Council members for feedback on ideas)
- General session before Council meetings
- Social hour was a success

Executive Director Evaluation – Step One

George reviewed the evaluation process for the Council. He distributed the evaluation forms along with return addressed envelopes and asked that the evaluations be returned to him by October 15th.

George shared that he would review the evaluations and report the results at the November Council meeting.

George stated that this had been a good year for the Council. He feels that there has been growth and change with no significant budget problems.

The professional outreach with Alisha from Harris and Smith has been great. George announced that Ed's position was re-evaluated into an exempt position. George congratulated Ed for saving the Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund (DDETF).

Ed shared that the evaluation forms follow the Executive Director report format. He also feels that this was a good year for the Council and shared that he values the comments received from the evaluations.

With that the meeting was adjourned.